

AIR

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24 June 53

Chief of Mission, Vienna

Chief, EM

Operational/GRBOUNCE

GRCROOND - Paramilitary

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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1. This is the first, and we hope the last, interim report on the status of master paramilitary project GRCROOND. It is hoped that final PRC approval will be granted this project within one month, whereupon two copies of the project outline, one each to VOB and SOB, will be pouched immediately.

2. GRCROOND was discussed with and revised by [] in mid-April and then forwarded for proper coordination and approval. However, approximately one month later, the project was returned to this desk for further revision and coordination.

3. The project was resubmitted a short time later and now is in the hands of the Paramilitary Operations Staff, which, we hope, will be GRCROOND's last stop prior to final review and approval by the PRC.

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EXTRACT -- Report on TDY to Chief, EE/PM by []

[] EE/PM

5. AUSTRIA

a. High-level Recruiting

As discussed with Chief, Austrian Mission [] before his departure for the Field, proposals are now being worked out for implementation of this project, and will shortly be submitted by VOB. They contemplate a program under which a limited number of carefully selected persons of a high level of intelligence, motivation, character, etc., would be recruited, to be given as complete training as possible, and to remain in position as future resistance organizers in case of hostilities. It is difficult to estimate the number, but a possible target in the next few years might be fifteen. It would be considered highly profitable if four or five of these actually materialize to carry on the desired activities in wartime, as planned. Trade-craft and other initial training will be given in the field, and during this time, and as a result of the assessments made by instructors, some of the trainees will be weeded out as unsuitable for the purpose, and possibly diverted to lower level activities. Those found suitable will then be given advanced training, if possible in the United States. Early training will also include W/T, as it is desired that they be able to communicate themselves with base after hostilities, even though they may be furnished with a full-time, more competent W/T man later. It is anticipated that the expenses of this program will not be great, and could be provided out of project CROOND; no training is envisaged during the current fiscal year.

There will be a requirement for training material, manuals, etc., insofar as possible translated into German. In addition, it is hoped that higher-level instructors might occasionally be able to visit the Mission for short special training periods.

b. DAGGER Training

GRDAGGER 1 was originally promised that a small group of his men, specially selected, would be given instruction in small arms and demolitions, so that they could in turn instruct other members of the organization in the utilization of the equipment that has been cached for them. It was agreed that this commitment must be honored, in CIA interest as well. A proposal will be made to GRDAGGER 1 that a group of about four men be given thorough classroom instruction, probably by Major Joost, and that an effort will be made to provide practical work on the range at some military installation. The undersigned discussed the latter possibility with the German Mission but this does not appear feasible in Germany, and it is hoped that arrangements can be made with USFA.

c. Project GRCROOND

The Mission found the project entirely satisfactory, although in some respects out of date due to changes which have occurred since the project was first undertaken. A dispatch is on the way.

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~~SECRET~~
Security Information
-2-

d. USFA War Plans

Since assumption of command by General Arnold, the war plan has been substantially modified. Instead of trying to hold the mountainous western half of Austria, USFA troops will withdraw, if pressed, to the general line of the Italian border, holding on the Austrian side of the high mountain wall.

EUCOM has the responsibility of drawing up U/W plans for Austria. Their guerrilla warfare plans call for guerrilla activity in two areas in the central-eastern section. One of these is already provided for in the Mission's plans, and the other is in an area which is quite unsuitable for guerrilla warfare. This will be brought to EUCOM's attention.

The EUCOM plan, "E & E Requirements for Austria and Hungary," which was prepared on 1 June 1953 by Colonel Pash, was found to be incompatible with CIA's plans in this area. However, this plan has not been given CIA and it is Major List's opinion that no further action is necessary.

e. Equipment

As regards equipment to be given back to USFA to replace what was borrowed for the 1952 cachings, 150 pistols were obtained from EUCOM thru the German Mission, 4,000 lbs of C-3 are enroute from USA to Austria, and USFA G-4 has agreed at the undersigned's request to forego replacement of the 300 rounds of 60 mm mortar ammunition.

f. Office Space

g. Clearances

SOB expressed great dissatisfaction with the time taken in obtaining clearances at headquarters. Quicker action is required if costly delays are to be eliminated, particularly in the ICEBERG program. (Note: This has been taken up, and improvement is expected.)

6. Uncached Equipment (Germany)

The recovery of 47 caches is now completed. Much of the material cached in sandy ground, is in good condition, but the balance, which was in clay, was under water for the most part. It appears that this material was not in bad shape when removed, since it did not rust while actually under water, no particular care was taken to protect it after removal, for some weeks, and it is feared that there has been a good deal of deterioration. The equipment is being given to the army for reconditioning, after which the Austrian Mission will send a man up to look it over and select the items they may wish to store in Austria for eventual use.

SECRET

SECRET
Security Information

-3-

7. E & E in Switzerland

[] is much in favor of carrying on preparations for E & E in Switzerland. It is his opinion that the Swiss IS would have no objections to this relatively innocuous activity, although he thinks they would prefer not to be formally aware of it. (Note: COM, Vienna, is of the opinion that they would prefer to be told about it.) This opinion is based on the cooperative Swiss attitude as evidenced by recent occurrences. Col. Daniel of the Swiss IS recently agreed with [] that bilateral plans for resistance, supply of equipment, etc., should be considered. He has also suggested sending one of his men to be trained by the US in Germany, and is assembling a group of 34 men to work on resistance in Switzerland.

[] proposal would call for the establishment of nuclei in four areas - Geneva, Ticino, area adjoining Vorarlberg border and the north-central area. The nuclei in each area might consist of four to six persons, who would also spot and earmark a pool of possible helpers from whom the organization in wartime could eventually be developed.

(signed) []

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